

A

Weekly Review

OF THE

Affairs of FRANCE.

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *Newf-Writers*
and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

Saturday, March 25. 1704.

AS the worst Enemies of Truth shall never have the advantage to charge us with Partiality in these Papers, it must be necessary in the Examination of the present Greatness of the *French* Power, to look into those Parts where it seems weakest; and tho' God knows they are very few, the present Face of their Affairs being, generally speaking, every where very formidable; yet, as we are not drawing a Map of the *French*, in Order to Terrify our Friends, we shall endeavour to give all our Pretences of their Weakness, the full length and breadth.

And tho' we wish as much as any Man, that all our boasting *Newf-Writers* had Reason for their undervaluing the Forces of the *French*; and that it was true as the *London Post*, March 15. says, That the *Hungarians* Demand 200000 *Livers* of the *French*, which that King is not in a Condition to spare him: yet, while his Numerous Armies appear on His En-

mies Frontiers, while he has 300000 Pistoles before-hand at *Seville*, for the Payment of his Auxiliar Troops in *Spain*, while he can appropriate 18 Millions for his Sea-Service; and while what we have already said on this head, is true: We cannot persuade our selves to advance to the World, that he wants 20000 Pounds to supply the Insurrection in *Hungaria*, if he saw 'twas his Interest to support it.

If there is the least Prospect of a Breach on the *French* Power, 'tis in *Italy*, and abundance of *Strange and Wonderfuls* we have had from thence, by way of Descant and Reflection.

If we pretend to stare the Case of the *French* Affairs in *Italy*, we must go back to the beginning of the last Campaign; every-body expected, and indeed not without good Reason, that the *Imperialists* would have been forc'd to abandon *Italy*, and 'tis still hard to Assign a Cause why the *French* Army, which by all the Lists

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of their Forces, appeared to be 54000 Men, and who had push'd the *Germans* into a very small spot of Ground, should yet lie almost all the Summer, and not Displace, Starve, or reduce a handfull of Men; for we could never make the *Germans* to be above 14000 Men, till after the Affair of *Trent* was over.

About the Month of *June*, the Duke de *Vendosme* bid fair for it, and had most effectually driven them from the Rivers, had gotten a Bridge upon the *Po* below their Quarters, Belieg'd *Bersello* above them, and Taken *Final di Modena* on their Flank, and they had no way left, but to advance into the *Vicentine*, in the *Venetian* Territories, or Retreat into *Ferrara* in the Popes Dominions.

In this juncture the *Germans* fell on *Monf. Albergotti*, and Defeated him; Retook the Pass and Town of *Final di Modena*, and Repuls'd the Duke de *Vendosme*, in his Attack upon *Ostiglia*. These three successful Actions enlarged their Quarters, clear'd the *Po*, and left them free Communication with the Imperial Commissaries on the other side of the Gulph of *Venice*, who continually supply'd them with Stores and Provisions by Sea.

Tho' this was a great Advantage, and an Instance of the Bravery of the *Germans*, yet either they must have fallen under the *French* Power, or the Duke de *Vendosme* could have given but a very sorry Account of the Campaign.

But in the Crisis of this Action, as if the Fate of *Italy* was not to be Determined, *France* took the safest step that we can in any Justice charge her with in all this War.

And yet to this Hour 'tis not decided, and will not easily be, whether the Error lay in the *French*, or the Duke of *Bavaria*; whether the first was too late, or the latter too soon, the Matter of Fact is as follows.

An Express arrives in *Italy* with Orders to the Duke de *Vendosme* to leave his Designs on the *Po*, and in Person Invade the Bishoprick of *Trent*, in Order to join the Duke of *Bavaria*, who by Measures already Concerted at *Paris* and *Munich*, was at the same time to Enter *Tyrol*; and after the Conjunction to open a Free Com-

munication between *Italy* and *Bavaria*, and pierce with their United Strength, into the Emperors Hereditary Countries.

Whether the Duke of *Bavaria*, as before hinted, began too soon, or the Duke de *Vendosme* stay'd too long, 'tis not determined; but the *Bavarian* found such Resistance in *Tyrol*, and Embarrass'd himself so much between the Boors and the Mountains, that tho' he had Master'd *Kuffstein*, the Key of that Country, and afterwards *Innsbruck*, the Capital City, yet he was Distress'd by the Boors, beaten out of the Country, and forc'd to abandon all his Conquests, *Kuffstein* only excepted; and this before the *French* Forces had quit- ted the Banks of the *Po*.

Had the *French* been under the Walls of *Trent*, when the *Bavarian* was in the Heart of *Tyrol*, nothing but some blow from Heaven, like that of *Senacherib's* Army, could have prevented their Conjunction.

The Duke de *Vendosme* however late pursues his Orders, and with the same Torrent of Success, as the *Bavarians* had before, Enters the *Trentine*, Conquers all the Difficulties of Mountains and Fortifications, and shows himself before the City of *Trent*.

Here he began to see the Impossibility of the Undertaking, and the disappointment of the *Bavarian* Expedition, as a double difficulty of his own: However he raises some Works, and with what Cannon he had with him, and two Mortars, Fires upon the City.

Here we must pause, and return to the *Po*; Prince *Vaudemont*, who with part of the *French* Army, was left to face the *Germans*, found himself not in a Condition, to prevent their sending 6000 Men to join the Imperial Forces, who oppos'd the *French* in the *Trentine*, so that now we cannot suppose the *Germans*, who were left, to be above 8 or 10000 Men; and yet Prince *Vaudemont* had with him 22000 Men, besides the Garrison of *Mantua*.

But these 22000 Men consisted of *Spaniards*, *Neapolitans*, *Milanese* and *Savoyards*, the latter of which, made about 6000, and were esteem'd, especially the Horse, some of the best of his Troops.

In this Juncture of Time came to their Ears, the Case of the Duke of *Savoy*, who having been ill used in the *French* Army, ever since the Action at *Ghiari*, which the *French* to this day place to the Account of his Temerity; and having privately made his Peace with the Emperor, and Entred into the Grand Alliance, had, as they say, design'd to take this Opportunity, in the Absence of the Duke of *Vendosme* and the Division of the Army, to joyn with the Imperialist, and enter *Milan*.

Whether this News came from *Paris* to the Duke of *Vendosme*, or whether he

ventured to send an Account thither, and wait for Orders, is not certain; tho' the latter is most probable: But this is plain, That contrary to the *French* Custom, and that Prince's in particular, for all Men know the Duke of *Vendosme* to be a Man of a precipitate Valour, they Loyer'd about Trent 12 or 14 days.

Tho' this Relation may seem something Remote from the Design of these Papers; yet the Author thinks it a Necessary Digression, and doubts not when it comes to bear with the General Article, the Reader will think so too.

Mercure Scandale :

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ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB:

THE Society having been so long upon the Examination of our News-Writers, and daily Complaints being still made of their Scandalous Mistakes, Ignorances and Contradictions; the Question was put, Whether they should be all call'd over again, to Answer such new Charge as was upon the File against them? And after some Debate, it was resolv'd to give them a Months time from the first day of *March* Instant, to mend their Manners; in which time, if they thought fit to Review their Papers, and give Notice of past Mistakes, and the like, they should be excus'd; if not, they should be proceeded against with the utmost Severity.

But before this Order was to Commence, the Authors of the *Flying-Post* past an Examination for Offences formerly Committed.

He first had told us, *Flying-Post*, Feb. 29, That the Ship, *Land of Promise*, was come into *Plymouth* from *Rotterdam*,

with Wine and Cloth bound for *Barbadoes*.

Being ask'd if he had Certain Advice his News was true; he told the Society he had.

Then he was ask'd, whether the said Ship came in to unload her Wine and Cloath: At which he began to laugh and banter the Society, telling them, if they pleas'd to look upon his Paper, she was not bound to *Plymouth*; but to *Barbadoes*.

Upon which the Club being something mov'd, Order'd the Statute-Book to be fetch'd, and desired him to read the Act of Navigation, whether a *Dutch* Ship could proceed from *Rotterdam* to *Barbadoes*: when the Author was convinc'd, and had little to say.

Upon which he was Order'd to get the Act of Navigation without Book, and Repeat it three times on the *Barbadoes* Walk in the *Royal Exchange*, as a Satisfaction to the Plantation

Plantation Merchants for Scandalizing their Trade.

Another of his Papers was produc'd, in which the told the World, the *Windsor* and *Bridgwater* Men of War arriv'd from *Ireland*, at *Plymouth*, Convoy to several Ships, and among the rest a *Hamburg* for *Bilboa*.

Here he was ask'd, whether he was sure the *Hamburgers* continue to Trade with *Spain*, notwithstanding the Emperor's Avocatoria, and if so, he was Directed to send an Express of it to *Vienna*, that they may be proceeded against for Contumacy.

But being Demanded how this *Hamburg* came to call at *Plymouth*, in the way from *Ireland* to *Bilboa*; he was forc'd to submit, and was Recorded in the Book of Nonfence Fol. 5.

The farther Examination of this Affair was Adjourn'd upon the following occasion.

One *J. P. a Reformer*, brought a Drayman before the Club, for that he had scandalously been at Work with his Dray and Horses, at the Vulgar Employment of, Carrying and Starting Strong Beer, on the 30th of *January* last, contrary to My Lord Mayor's Express Order for the Observation of that day.

The Fellow being taken in the Fact, had little to say as to that, but saucily told them they had nothing to do with him, for he belong'd to Sir *F—— n P—— s*.

The Society, in respect to the Ruler of the People, presently dismiss the Man, and Order'd him to let his Master know how Civilly they had used him.

But being at the same time Inform'd, that several other Men had been severely Punish'd for Working on the same day; they made it be Noted down in their Book of Remembrance, How Beneficial a thing it is, to be a L—d M——'s Drayman.

The Printer of this Paper receiv'd a short Reprimand from the Clubb, for over-looking the following Errors in the last; but escap'd a Censure on promise of Amendment.

Page 35. Col. 1. for *King of France*, read *Kings of France*; *ibid.* Col. 2. for *there were*, read *there was*; Page 36. Col. 1. for 1673; read 1703.

A Duertisements are taken in at-reasonable Rates, by J. Matthews, in Pilkington-Gourt in Little-Britain.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

AT Fellow's Coffee-house, over-against the *Half-Moon Tavern* in *Aldersgate-street*, are sold several sorts of Purg-ing Waters; as also the *Epsom Salt*; where is a large Room to Walk in, and other Conveniencies for those that please to drink them there.

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